

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 01636 091451Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
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S E C R E T CONAKRY 1636

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: SHUM GV
SUBJECT: REPUBLIC OF GUINEA - DRAFT HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY ACTION
PLAN

REF: STATE 205896

1. CONCUR IN PLAN'S GENERAL APPROACH. COMMENTS ON DRAFT FOLLOW.

2. PARA. ONE (C). EMBASSY CURRENTLY USES FIGURE OF 1-2
THOUSAND POLITICAL PRISONERS. MOST ESTIMATES ARE BASED ON
1970-75 AND ARE OUT-OF-DATE. BEST INFORMED SOURCES AVAILABLE
LOCALLY HAVE NO REALLY SOLID RECENT DATA FOR ESTIMATE.

3. PARA. ONE (C). GUINEAN OFFICIAL GAZETTE ANNOUNCED 89 MORE
AMNESTIES IN PERIOD FEBRUARY-JULY 1977 (CLIPPINGS BEING
AIR POUCHED TO AF/W).

4. PARA ONE (D). TRIAL BY POPULAR ASSEMBLIES WAS
WIDESPREAD IN 1970-72 PERIOD.

5. PARA TWO (A). ANTI-FOULAHKXCAMPAIGN DIED AWAY SEVERAL
MONTHS AFTER IT BEGAN, AND NOTHING MORE HAS BEEN HEARD OF IT.
REFTEL DRAFT MIGHT BE MISUNDERSTOOD AS IMPLYING THAT CAMPAIGN
STILL UNDERWAY.

6. PARA TWO (C). PARADOXICALLY UNTIL RECENT UNREST SEKOU TOURE
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NORMALLY SAW DOZENS OR EVEN HUNDREDS OF PETITIONERS OR SUPPLICANTS
IN GIVEN DAY TO DISPENSE ROUGH JUSTICE, FAVORS, AND ORDERS,
AND TO KEEP FINGER ON PEOPLE'S PULSE. THERE IS A POLITICAL PROCESS
OF SORTS BUT MORE IN MOLD OF RESTRICTED MALINKE CLAN THAN WESTERN
DEMOCRACY.

7. PARA FOUR (A). REGIME THINKS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS

MUCH OR MORE IN TERMS OF AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE THAN OF FREEDOM FROM CAPITALIST DOMINATION, ALTHOUGH BOTH ELEMENTS ARE CERTAINLY PRESENT.

8. PARA FOUR (B). SUBSEQUENT MERCENARY INVASION OF "PROGRESSIVE" BENIN (JANUARY 1977) DID LITTLE TO CONVINCE SEKOU TOURE OF THE SOUNDNESS OF U.S.'S JUDGEMENT THAT HE FACES NO OUTSIDE THREAT. RECENT EFFORTS OF GUINEAN EXILES TO UNIFY EXILE MOVEMENTS AGAINST HIM ALSO FEED TOURE'S APPREHENSION.

9. ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS PARA ONE (1) OPTION (C). IF SEKOU TOURE BECOMES PERSUADED THAT THE U.S. IS ACTIVELY AND OPENLY PROMOTING PROPOSAL TO PUT GUINEA IN UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION DOCKET, HE WILL BLOW FUSE. U.S. IS LIKELY TO BE PUT ON "ENEMIES LIST" IN PSF-MITTERAND CATEGORY AND ALL POSSIBILITIES OF USING ON-GOING QUIET DIALOGUE TO GET CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE LOST OR GREATLY IMPEDED. IF U.S. TAKES NO RPT NO PUBLIC LEADING ROLE OR RHETORICAL STAND IN COMMISSION BUT, AS RANK-AND-FILE MEMBER, VOTES FOR SUCH PROPOSAL, TOURE MAY SUFFER US IN SILENCE IN VIEW IMMENSE POTENTIAL BENEFIT OF U.S. TO GUINEA (INVESTMENT, TECHNOLOGY, FOOD, AID, ETC.) BUT EVEN THIS IS HARD TO PREDICT. IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST (PARA ONE (1)) BEING OF MUCH ASSISTANCE EXCEPT IN
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PILLORYING SEKOU TOURE IN COMMISSION WHICH WOULD NOT RPT NOT NECESSARILY ADVANCE U.S. INTERESTS. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT USG CAN BEST BE HELPFUL BY ESTABLISHING CREDIBILITY WITH TOURE THEN PUSHING QUIETLY FOR INCREMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS, STARTING WITH ICRC MISSION. RHETORICAL ACTION AT U.N., FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH OVERALL U.S. STRATEGY TOWARD GUINEA, ALTHOUGH IMPLICIT THREAT OF SAME MAY HELP KEEP GOG BEHAVIOR MORE HUMANE.

10. PARA ONE (3). RECENT UNREST SPARKED BY MARKET WOMEN HAS SPOTLIGHTED GUINEA'S ECONOMIC MALAISE. WE GUESS MAJORITY OF GUINEANS BELIEVE TOURE MUST NOW ALTER NO-WIN STATIST ECONOMIC GAME PLAN OR FACE WORSE TROUBLES. THERE IS MORE HOPE NOW, EVEN AT SENIOR LEVEL, THAT MORE FLEXIBLE INTERNAL ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS WILL BE SOUGHT. IMF/WORLD BANK HAVE TABLED REPORT IMPLICITLY CRITICAL OF GUINEA'S STRATEGY UP TO NOW, AND WILL BE DISCUSSING IT FORMALLY WITH GOG. OBJECTIVE SITUATION PLUS IMF/WORLD BANK PRESSURE WILL REMAIN CHIEF SPURS TO ECONOMIC RATIONALITY. EMBASWY HAS PREACHED LATTER TO SEKOU TOURE IN PAST WITHOUT SLIGHTEST EFFECT, BUT

U.S. ACTIONS AND RESPONSIVENESS CAN PERHAPS DO THEIR
PART TO ENCOURAGE GOG IN MORE PRAGMATIC DIRECTION WHEN
TIME IS CIPE. U.S. LEVERAGE IN INFLUENCING INTERNATIONAL
LEADING INSTITUTIONS GREATLY PREOCCUPIES GOG, BUT ANY
OPEN "BLACKMAIL" (E.G. NEGATIVE VOTING) IS LIKELY TO INFLAME
TOURE'S PRIDEFUL NATIONALISM TO UNPREDICTABLE DEGREE.
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